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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 417
By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. William Kenneth
Neal of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the accomplishments of those Tennesseans who, during their respective lifetimes, served their fellow citizens with the utmost integrity, dedication, and ability; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Neal was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, October 13, 1999 was truly a sad day for all people who had the distinct privilege of knowing Mr. Neal, as well as for the entire state of Tennessee, as this remarkable man passed away at the age of 73; and

WHEREAS, the son of Pallas Holmes Neal and Bennie Frances Johnson Neal, he was a lifelong resident of the Tucker's Crossroads community in Wilson County; and

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WHEREAS, Kenneth Neal's family is the third generation of Neals to farm in that community; his grandfather, W.H. Neal, made the Neal name a household word in Tennessee by producing Neal's Paymaster seed corn, a variety that was a tremendous success; and

WHEREAS, farming and community service were a way of life for Mr. Neal, he was a leader in helping to pave the way for current and future farmers in Wilson County, and the state; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neal had served with acumen and alacrity as the president of the Wilson County Farm Bureau and had been a member of the organization since 1957; he also served the Wilson County Farmers Cooperative with probity as director for 18 years; and

WHEREAS, his devotion and loyalty to the Co-op were duly recognized in 1993 when he was featured with his grandson on the cover of Tennessee Farmers Cooperative's annual report; and

WHEREAS, he served astutely on the Board of Directors of Friendship Christian School; his and his family's strong commitment to the Tucker's Crossroads School earned him further recognition in 1999 when the school's yearbook was dedicated to him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neal and a fellow neighbor, compelled by community pride and devotion to children in the area, donated land and raised funds to build a ballpark just for the Tucker's Crossroads community; the park has become a valued asset to everyone in the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neal was an active and devout member of the Bethlehem Church of Christ, which he served faithfully for 11 years as an Elder and 16 years as a Deacon; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Neal was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neal enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Ina, and was the proud parent of sons Pal , Phillip, Perry, and daughter Pamela, and grandparent of Houston, Hannah, Haden, Kyle, Adam, Rachel, and Mark; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neal leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mr. William Kenneth Neal, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Neal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.